

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAR ES 01515 131244Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 AID-05 MC-02
IGA-02 /107 W
-----131247Z 053597 /43

R 131201Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4664
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1515

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CG MO FR US
SUBJECT: TANZANIAN COMMENT ON EXTERNAL AID FOR ZAIRE

REF: (A) STATE 82515, (B) STATE 82528

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

1. GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS OF APRIL 13 CARRIES FRONT
PAGE COMMENT ON MOROCCAN TROOPS IN ZAIRE. EDITORIAL AVOIDS
CHARACTERIZATION OF MOROCCAN (AND FRENCH) INVOLVEMENT WHILE,
IN BACKHANDED WAY, GIVING CREDIT TO US FOR "STAYING CLEAR OF
THE FIGHTING."

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2. COMMENT: AS EDITORIAL MAKES CLEAR, TANGOV IS POORLY
INFORMED ABOUT ZAIRE'S SITUATION. IT IS DEPENDENT ON INTERNATIONAL
PRESS FOR SCATTERED, OFTEN INCONSISTENT INFORMATION. TANGOV'S
INITIAL REACTION WAS THAT ZAIRE PROBLEM PURELY INTERNAL. NOW IT
APPEARS THERE ARE SECOND THOUGHTS, WHICH MAY EXPLAIN WHY
MOROCCO COMES IN FOR SURPRISINGLY LIGHT TREATMENT. TANGOV
WOULD NOT EASILY PASS UP AN OPPORTUNITY TO POUNCE ON MOROCCO

BECAUSE OF ITS CONCERNS ABOUT LATTER'S ROLE IN WESTERN SAHARA.

3. WITH RESPECT TO US, TANGOV PROBABLY TOOK HEART FROM MOBUTU'S RECENT CASTIGATIONS ABOUT LEVEL OF US ASSISTANCE. THERE MAY BE SOME RECONSIDERATION WHEN NEWS OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED REFTELS REACHES DAR ES SALAAM. END COMMENT.

END CONFIDENTIAL; BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

4. TEXT OF EDITORIAL FOLLOWS.

5. BEGIN TEXT.

MOROCCOAN TROOPS HAVE BEEN AIRLIFTED INTO ZAIRE TO BEAT OFF WHAT IS BEING DESCRIBED IN KINSHASA AS AN INVASION OF THAT COUNTRY BY FORCES OPPOSED TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S REGIME.

THE DECISION HAS BEEN JUSTIFIED ON THE GROUNDS THAT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, EVERY COUNTRY HAS THE RIGHT TO GRANT INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE WHEN REQUESTED.

THE AIRLIFT OF MOROCCAN TROOPS AS WELL AS THE ARMS FROM BELGIUM AND OTHER WESTERN SOURCES IS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY FRANCE ON THE SAME GROUNDS.

IT IS NOT, HOWEVER, CERTAIN THAT WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN ZAIRE IS AN INVASION AND NOT AN UPRISING BY ANTI-MOBUTU FORCES AS REPORTED BY OTHER SOURCES. REPORTS FROM THE PROVINCE OF SHABA WHERE FIGHTING IS SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING PLACE INDICATE A BIT OF
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BOTH, WITH A DIFFERENCE.

A NUMBER OF ZAIRIAN EXILED GROUPS OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL PERSUASIONS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO BE ITCHING FOR A RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY.

IF IT IS THESE GROUPS THAT ARE FIGHTING MOBUTU, THEN IT WOULD BE PERTINENT TO ASK WHETHER WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ZAIRE IS AN EXTERNAL INTERVENTION OR A CIVIL WAR?

AND IF REPORTS OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN SHABA AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIGHTING ARE TRUE THAT THE EXILED GROUPS ARE WELL-RECEIVED BY THE PEOPLE, THEN IT BECOMES EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE OR CATEGORIZE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ZAIRE.

THE SITUATION IS INDEED MOST COMPLICATED AND SERIOUS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN TROOPS IS BOUND TO MAKE IT EVEN MORE SO.

THE UNITED STATES, AN ERSTWHILE FRIEND OF THE KINSHASA
REGIME, HAS CHOSEN TO STAY CLEAR OF THE FIGHTING BECAUSE OF WHAT
A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED AS "THE SERIOUSNESS OF
THE SITUATION".

WHY CAN'T OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH PROBLEMS
OF THEIR OWN, DO THE SAME? END TEXT.
SPAIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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